

WHITSON BROS. GREAT REDUCTION SALE

Still Going On

The success of this sale so far has been far beyond our expectations, but we have lots of good bargains yet; in fact, we are cutting prices deeper than ever. They must go NOW. Ladies' Tailored Suits and Cloaks will be sold for the next few days at about half price. Come at once and get the best selections and bargains before they are all gone. One-third off on Men's Suits and Overcoats while they last. Come quick and get the choice of these great bargains. We have only about two more weeks to deal out these bargains to you, and we can't tell whether you will ever have a chance to buy good up-to-date merchandise at these greatly reduced prices. DO NOT DELAY. COME NOW!

WHITSON BROS.

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THE SCHEME SPRUNG

The long contemplated plan to turn the city light and water plant over to private individuals to speculate with was sprung at the meeting of the board of aldermen on Monday night.

J. N. Cox submitted a proposition that a company he represented would take the plant for twenty years and furnish the city water for fire purposes only and one hundred street lights of 100 candle power each. No provision is made for the maintenance of the arc lights nor the numerous small lights that have been erected in so many places, and they would be cut off or paid for by the city.

The company does not propose to pay one cent in money for this plant that cost the taxpayers more than \$20,000. Almost any man would take a plant, or store a farm or any other business that cost such a large sum if anyone was foolish enough to offer it.

There is but one object in the company wanting possession of the plant—profits. And there will be large ones if the deal goes through. If this company can make money with the plant why cannot the town? Does the board

of aldermen plea guilty to lack of business ability? Does it admit that a company can get water where the board finds none?

The only plea that can be made for desiring to turn the plant out of possession of the people is that it costs so much to run it. But there is no need of the loss incurred. The plant loses money for two reasons, extravagance and mismanagement—that is a pay roll much larger than necessary and failure to collect the money due the plant.

The proper remedy is not to give away the plant, but to apply business methods in its operation. Mark the prediction; if the deal goes through it will cost the taxpayers much more than it does now.

If there is to be a lease made why not advertise the matter and let it go to the highest bidder?

Nelson Fisher of Carthage, ex-state senator, a leader of the prohibition and independent movement and member of Bartons' appendage to the Republican state committee, has resigned therefrom and announces that a place in the ranks of the old Democratic party is good enough for him. It's coming, boys, and nothing can stop it. We are mighty glad to have Senator Fisher with us again. The bosom of Democracy is filled with long suffering charity and the spirit of forgiveness. While the lamp holds out to burn the chiefest sinner may return.

THE MAYOR PEEVED

At the meeting of the board of aldermen last Monday night Mayor J. B. Dow took the floor and in a long speech denounced the publication of an article in the Herald of Nov. 30, in regard to the waterworks. The editor, who happens to be alderman Wirt, was put through a catechism as to what was meant by the article in question.

In reply the editor stated that it meant exactly what it said, and that it would stay as published.

The whole matter was a tempest in a teapot, and appeared ridiculous. The board has no legal or moral right to bring any member thereof before the august body for statements not made before the board while in session, nor for any matter published in a newspaper.

Moreover, the board of mayor and aldermen are neither editors nor authorized censors of the Herald.

The next time the mayor or any alderman feels peeved at what the Herald says we suggest that they reply through that paper, and not take up the valuable time of the board. The Herald columns are open for any reply they may wish to make under these circumstances.

The article was published for the purpose of letting the public know the facts and to prevent the spending of money, and apparently succeeded in its mission.

ALDERMEN IN SESSION

The regular meeting of the board of aldermen was held Monday night. Routine business was transacted. The most important business done was the appointing of a committee to look into the proposition to turn the light and water plant over to a company, and report to the board.

The quarterly reports of the recorder for July 30 and Oct. 30, 1911, were sworn to and approved. So far as we can learn this is the first time since Cookeville was incorporated over eight years ago that a report has been made under oath. The law positively requires these statements to be sworn to.

The fact was also developed that the recorder had made a bond a few weeks ago, which had been approved by the mayor. The city charter requires this bond to be made before the recorder takes the oath of office. Thus the recorder was without bond for several months of the administration of the present board.

There was more than 2,000 votes cast in the Democratic primary election in Putnam County on December 2, a goodly number indeed. This is larger than the vote in some years before the row came up, and shows conclusively that Putnam county has got right again. Much credit for the success of the primary is due to the political wisdom and sagacious management of Chairman J. A. Carlen and members of the County Committee.